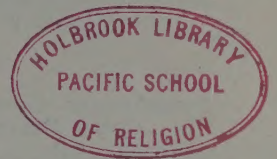


FEDERAL COUNCIL

Bulletin

VOL. XXV, No. 1

JANUARY, 1942



In Time of War

"Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God

And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together: for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it."

"Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the Lord thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest."

Isaiah 40:3,5; Joshua 1:9

• A JOURNAL OF INTERCHURCH COÖPERATION •

Coming Events

A calendar of the more important national meetings of church organizations, so far as known to the BULLETIN, is published monthly in this column.

ANNUAL MEETING, HOME MISSIONS COUNCIL OF NORTH AMERICA
Trenton, N. J.....January 9-12, 1942

FOREIGN MISSIONS CONFERENCE
Trenton, N. J.....January 12-15, 1942

FEDERAL COUNCIL OF CHURCHES, EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
New York, N. Y.....January 23, 1942

INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION, ANNUAL MEETING
Chicago, Ill.....February 9-14, 1942

COMMITTEE OF REFERENCE AND COUNSEL, FOREIGN MISSIONS CONFERENCE
New York, N. Y.....February 17, 18, 1942

NATIONAL STUDY CONFERENCE ON THE CHURCHES AND A JUST AND DURABLE PEACE
Delaware, Ohio.....March 3-5, 1942

GENERAL SYNOD, REFORMED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Sparta, Ill.....May 19, 1942

GENERAL ASSEMBLY, PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN THE U. S. A.
Milwaukee, Wisc.....May 21, 1942

NORTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION
Cleveland, Ohio.....May 26-June 1, 1942

GENERAL ASSEMBLY, UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Columbus, Ohio.....May 27, 1942

GENERAL ASSEMBLY, PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN THE U. S.
Knoxville, Tenn.....May 28, 1942

GENERAL SYNOD, REFORMED CHURCH IN AMERICA
Albany, N. Y.....June 4, 1942

GENERAL COUNCIL OF CONGREGATIONAL CHRISTIAN CHURCHES
Hanover, N. H.....June 23-30, 1942

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A Journal of Interchurch Coöperation

Issued by

THE FEDERAL COUNCIL OF THE CHURCHES OF CHRIST IN AMERICA

CONSTITUTED BY TWENTY-FOUR NATIONAL COMMUNIONS

National Baptist Convention
Northern Baptist Convention
Congregational Christian Churches
Disciples of Christ
Evangelical Church
Evangelical and Reformed Church
Friends
The Methodist Church
African M. E. Church

African M. E. Zion Church
Colored M. E. Church in America
Moravian Church
Presbyterian Church in U. S. A.
Presbyterian Church in U. S.
Protestant Episcopal Church
Reformed Church in America
Reformed Episcopal Church
Seventh Day Baptist Churches

Syrian Antiochian Orthodox Church of
North America
United Brethren Church
United Church of Canada
United Lutheran Church
(Consultative Body)
United Presbyterian Church
Church of the Brethren
(Pending confirmation by Biennial
meeting)

VOL. XXV, No. 1

JANUARY, 1942

A Message to Our Fellow-Christians

*from the Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America
Adopted December 30, 1941*

The war which oppresses our world today marks a deepening crisis in civilization. The calculated treachery of recent aggressions has evoked instant condemnation. It is a manifestation of a great flood of evil that has overwhelmed nation after nation, destroying human rights and leaving men the victims of irresponsible force. We do not disclaim our own share in the events, economic, political and moral which made it possible for these evil forces to be released. But these forces have now brought war to our shores, and our nation has joined in the world's struggle that it may preserve the ideals and institutions of free men.

Yet we must realize that the war is but the most shocking sign of the demoralization of modern life and international conduct. The laws of God have not been honored. Now the awful consequences are laid bare. Conscious of our participation in the world's sin, we would be humble and penitent before God.

But we do not despair. Our trust is in God, in whose Hand is the destiny of men and nations. They have wandered through long dark nights; but God has not forsaken them. We today must turn from proud and frantic worldliness to God. Then we may be chastened and strengthened even by calamities and become His instruments for fashioning a free, just and neigh-

borly world. The issue of all our striving is with Him.

We have a three-fold responsibility: as citizens of a nation which, under God, is dedicated to human freedom; as members of the Church in America, which is called to minister to people under heavy strain; and as members of the world-wide Church, which unites in a common fellowship men of every race and nation who acknowledge Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour.

As citizens we gratefully acknowledge a priceless national heritage of freedom and democratic ideals for which earlier generations struggled and sacrificed. We cherish this heritage more deeply when we see it attacked by a totalitarian threat. We are resolved to defend it from the menace of rival systems from without and from the degradation of abuse or neglect from within. It is our high obligation to bequeath our heritage unimpaired and strengthened to those who follow us. We rededicate ourselves to the highest purposes of this nation and to its unfinished task of building a more truly free and democratic society.

As members of the Church in America we have responsibilities which only the Church can discharge. The Church must ceaselessly bring to judgment those individual and social sins, at

home and abroad, which are the cause of such disaster. The Church must minister in every Christ-like way to men in the midst of war. More than ever, in such an hour, people need its ministry. They cannot withstand the tensions of war-time without moral and spiritual resource. The Church must maintain its distinctive service, but now with all the greater devotion and skill. It must inspire men, in the armed forces and at home, with faith and hope and courage. It must bring guidance to the perplexed, and comfort to the distressed—God's strength for our struggle and His peace for our pain.

The host of young men who in this hour of crisis answer their country's call are a special concern of the Church. It encompasses with gratitude and prayer all now summoned to render sacrificial service, whether in the armed forces or in other work of national importance. It honors the sincere conscience of every man. It sends many of its ministers to serve as chaplains and seeks to create a wholesome environment in every camp community.

In days of trial, the Church cleaves to a steady faith. When bitterness and hatred may easily overwhelm us, the Church is still the stronghold of goodwill. It counts dear all basic human rights. It befriends loyal minorities, including those of alien birth or those descended from peoples with whose governments our country is now at war. The Church cannot abrogate its Gospel of Eternal Love.

The Church should minister in mercy to those on whom the cruelty of war most heavily falls. To the full measure of its ability it should care for refugees and prisoners of war and all others caught in the appalling suffering of our world.

The Church must be in the vanguard of preparation for a just and durable peace. The great sacrifice of treasure and of life must not be in vain. We must build now the spiritual foundations for a better order of the world. This task is immediate and cannot be delayed.

As members of the world-wide Church, which transcends all differences of race and nation, we have obligations which reach beyond our own country. We must preserve at all costs the

world-wide Christian fellowship, without which no free world order of justice and peace can be achieved. In times of war Christians in different nations are still members of the one Body of Christ. They must pray, not merely for their own national interest, but that God's will may be done in and through all nations. They must remember that in every warring nation there are men and women who, in spite of different political allegiances, are one with us in the ecumenical Church and who also pray for its fuller realization and the coming of God's Kingdom in the world. As this universal Church strengthens and extends its fellowship and deepens its loyalty to one Lord and Master it will be the greatest of all forces binding a broken world together.

We therefore call upon our fellow-Christians—

to bow in penitence before the judgments of God, who is the Ruler of nations and the Father of mankind;

to devote themselves to preserving and strengthening the ideals of freedom and democracy;

to withstand any propaganda of hatred or revenge and to refuse it the sanction of religion;

to manifest Christian goodwill toward those among us whose origin was in nations with which our country is now at war;

to succor with generosity all who suffer from the ravages of war;

to minister to the deeper needs of men in the nation's service;

to pray constantly that our national leaders may be guided and strengthened by the Spirit of God and that after this tragic conflict there shall come a new world of righteousness, justice and peace for all nations;

to strive for national policies in conformity with the will of God, rather than to seek the divine sanction for a human purpose;

to work actively and persistently for justice and goodwill among all racial groups both in our own country and throughout the world;

to maintain unbroken the fellowship of prayer with Christians everywhere;
 to be steadfastly loyal to the Holy Catholic Church; holy—sanctified to the redemptive purpose of God; catholic—of all believers and in all ages;
 to pray without ceasing that God's name may be hallowed and His will be done in earth as it is in Heaven;
 to maintain confident faith in God as the refuge and strength of His people even in the darkest night, and to trust in the triumph of His will.

"Now unto Him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us, unto Him be glory in the Church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end."

Coördination of Wartime Services

The entrance of the United States into the war, fortunately, does not find the churches unprepared for the special wartime responsibilities which they must meet unitedly. Certain necessary agencies are already in existence. These need, however, to be more closely related to each other and to function as parts of one program. The immediate need is not for new administrative machinery but for coördinating and strengthening the existing agencies.

To achieve this purpose the Executive Committee of the Federal Council, on December 30th, voted as follows:

"1. That a 'Coördinating Committee for Wartime Service' be formed.

"2. That each of the following agencies be invited to be represented upon the 'Coördinating Committee for Wartime Service' by its chairman, its executive secretary and one other representative: (a) The General Commission on Army and Navy Chaplains; (b) the Christian Commission for Camp and Defense Communities; (c) the Committee on the Conscientious Objector; (d) the Committee on Foreign Relief Appeals in the Churches; (e) the Commission to Study the Bases of a Just and Durable Peace, and (f) the committee which will assume respon-

sibility for aliens and prisoners of war in America.

"3. That the President of the Federal Council be asked to be the chairman of the 'Coördinating Committee for Wartime Service' and that the General Secretary of the Federal Council be the coördinating secretary.

"4. That members-at-large, not to exceed ten, be appointed in order to secure the counsel and advice of Christian leaders who are widely representative of the general interest of the churches.

"5. That the functions of the 'Coördinating Committee for Wartime Service' shall be:

"(a) to further effective coöperation in wartime emergency service;

"(b) to review from time to time the needs for other forms of coöperative wartime service not now being rendered and to make recommendations as to how such needs can best be met;

"(c) to interpret to the Church at large and to the general public the coöperative wartime service of the churches as a whole;

"(d) to secure additional financial resources for the agencies working together in the wartime program."

The Council also voted to collaborate with the Home Missions Council in constituting a Commission for Aliens and Prisoners of War. This new Commission, which will be set up immediately, will continue the work of a special committee which has been serving interned Japanese and their families and will also promote the Church's ministry to other groups, as indicated by its name.

A Petition

O Thou from whom to be turned away is to fall, to whom to be turned is to rise, and in whom to abide is to stand fast forever; grant us in all our duties thy help; in all our perplexities thy guidance; in all our dangers thy protection; and in all our sorrows thy peace. Amen.

John Hunter.

America's Prayer Minute

BEGINNING at six o'clock in the evening on New Year's Day and continuing for the duration of our national emergency, a Minute of Prayer is to be observed daily. The daily Minute of Prayer is to be known as "America's Prayer Minute." The time for its observance is six o'clock each evening. The plan is nation-wide. Because of the four time zones across the nation it will not be possible to keep the Minute simultaneously.

In Great Britain a Prayer Minute is being observed, and has been for over a year, at nine o'clock each evening. The call to prayer throughout the British Isles is the striking and chiming of Big Ben in London over the British Broadcasting Company facilities. It is reported that millions join individually and unitedly in this Minute in order to avail themselves of those limitless spiritual forces found only in Him who is the Sovereign God of all Mankind.

The plan for America's Prayer Minute has been approved by the Executive Committee of the Federal Council, and the Department of Evangelism has been authorized by it to give leadership in the inauguration and carrying on of this program for daily, concerted prayer.

In order to secure wide participation in America's Prayer Minute, the coöperation of many interested individuals, churches and organizations will be required. Who may help, and how?

Councils of Churches and Ministerial Associations can make immediate and continuous announcements of America's Prayer Minute, with an urgent request that all join in this observance.

Some representative from the Local Council of Churches or the Ministerial Association should confer with the radio station (or stations) of the community to enlist their interest and coöperation in this prayer plan. Arrangements may well be made for a representative of the churches in each community to speak frequently over the air in order to inform the radio audience of America's Prayer Minute and invite all who will to give one minute out of the 1440 minutes in every day, to meditation and prayer.

Arrangements should be made with all congregations that have church bells and chimes to ring them each evening at six o'clock as a call to prayer.

Pastors can make frequent announcements of America's Prayer Minute from the pulpit and in church calendars.

Homes having their evening meal at six o'clock can join in the use of this Prayer Minute in connection with the regular grace at the table.

The religious and also the daily press can help, not only in the inauguration of the Prayer Minute across the nation, but also in its continuation.

A booklet is being prepared by the Department of Evangelism which will contain a number of prayers for those individuals, homes and churches that care to use them. The Commission on Worship of the Federal Council is coöperating in the preparation of these prayers.

America's Prayer Minute provides men and women everywhere with an opportunity to unite in dedicating themselves to the service of God and country, and in remembering before the throne of Grace this suffering, warring world.

President Roosevelt's proclamation setting January first as a National Day of Prayer has accented the call of the churches for the observance of the Minute of Prayer. In many cities the ministers related the special New Year's Day services to the inauguration of the daily observance.

Field Secretary for Evangelism

There is an increasing interest in both church attendance and lay evangelism on the part of pastors and churches. This new interest has been stimulated, at least partially, by the observance of World-Wide Communion Sunday and by the National Christian Mission.

During recent months, many requests for help in these areas of the Church's life and work have come to the Department of Evangelism from pastors of many denominations. In order to meet this need and answer these many urgent requests for help, the Executive Committee of the Federal Council has appointed Rev. Oliver K. Black as Field Secretary of the Department of Evangelism, with special responsibility for promoting church attendance and lay evangelism.

Mr. Black comes to his work from a very successful pastorate of four years in the Congregational-Christian Church at Port Huron, Mich. This young minister has often assisted his father, Dr. Guy H. Black of Nashville, Tenn., over the last ten years in home visitation evangelism and church loyalty programs. He, therefore, comes to his new work with considerable experience in the very things for which he will be responsible.

Mr. Black's first two engagements will be in a city-wide home visitation evangelism program in Atlanta, Ga., February 8-13; and in Baltimore, Md., February 15-20. He will be available to councils of churches and ministerial associations for counsel, addresses and leadership with reference to community-wide church attendance and visitation evangelism programs in so far as his schedule will permit.

Atlantic City Study Conference

WITH a singular unity of spirit, the Atlantic City Study Conference on Closer Relationships of General Interdenominational Agencies declared its approval of a "more inclusive coöperative organization" for American coöperative Christianity. The action of the Conference follows:

1. "That we approve in principle the creation of a more inclusive coöperative organization which will provide for the continued, expanded and more effective coördination and integration of our respective Councils, such as is indicated in plan "C" of the study document and as it may be modified by further study."
2. "That we recommend the continued study of the constitution and program of such an organization and its relation to the denominations, to the existing Councils and to the State and Local Councils."
3. "That we recommend that the Councils proceed at once to the necessary steps for further coöperation through the organization of such joint service departments as may be found feasible."
4. "That we recommend that a special committee be set up to carry forward these recommendations and that the study committee be instructed to bring to the Councils proposals for the committee and the terms of reference for its work."

Plan "C," to which the action refers, envisages a single inclusive corporate agency to continue and extend all the present general agencies, combining all of their interests and functions. Besides the Federal Council, the groups represented by twenty-five official delegates in the study conference were the International Council of Religious Education, the Foreign Missions Conference of North America, the Home Missions Council of North America, the Missionary Education Movement of the United States and Canada, the National Council of Church Women, the Council of Church Boards of Education and the United Stewardship Council. The Association of Council Secretaries participated through six representatives.

The factual basis for the work of the conference proved invaluable. This consisted of a fifty-four-page report prepared by the Committee on the Study of Closer Relationships created by the eight coöperating interdenominational bodies. This report set before the delegates a factual analysis of the present national interdenominational situation relative to general organization, purpose and function, internal organization, finance and common factors. Among the many pertinent items in the analysis, the following were noted:

1. Four agencies are incorporated and four are not.
2. One (the Federal Council) represents, and is re-

sponsible to, the highest governing bodies of its constituent denominations. Seven are representative of national denominational boards, while two of the seven also include representatives of state and local interdenominational bodies.

3. The total employed personnel of the eight Councils is 219, sixty-two of whom are executives.
4. The annual budgets of the Councils for a twelve-month period total \$780,000.
5. Sixty-seven denominational bodies have membership in one or more of the eight Councils. Twenty denominations with a communicant membership of 25,165,451 have membership in five or more of the Councils. Of the sixty-seven bodies the number having affiliation with each Council follows:

Home Missions Council.....	23
Foreign Missions Conference	61
Federal Council of Churches.....	24
Council of Church Boards of Education.....	22
International Council of Religious Education	40
Missionary Education Movement.....	22
United Stewardship Council.....	26

The National Council of Church Women does not have denominational affiliation as such.

With regard to program, the report revealed a growing coöperation between the Councils in inter-agency enterprises such as Christian Missions, the United Christian Youth Movement, the United Christian Adult Movement, A United Christian Advance in Rural America, A United Christian Education Advance, A Christian World Mission Convocation, and field administration through the Inter-Council Field Department.

The extent and variety of state and local interdenominational activities in America were reported in the following summary: There are "66 statewide councils of various types functioning in 42 states, approximately 200 city or county councils, at least 1300 local ministerial associations and 6 regional organizations." In the discussion the trend toward one inclusive interdenominational agency was emphasized on the state and local levels of interdenominational coöperation.

This study clearly indicated that the coöperative movement as a whole is a striking demonstration of growing unity and of the great value of united effort. However, it pointed out that interdenominational organizations on every level are limited in their effectiveness because they are only partially representative of the churches, because in different degrees they are all inadequately supported, and because they are so loosely integrated that each is not sufficiently reinforced by the strength of all. The extent to which they have developed common interests is indicated by the great number of intercouncil joint activities. At the same time, the tragic needs of this day have brought both a new reality and a new urgency into the coöperative movement.

Four considerations upon which the report based its

case for closer relationships were stated as follows:

"as an essential step in creating an integrated coöperative movement for the service of the churches;
as a recognition of the essential interrelatedness of the functions and interests of those agencies;
as a practical measure for increased efficiency in operation;
as a dramatic and convincing demonstration of the churches' desire for united action in this time of crisis."

The report outlined in some detail four alternative procedures, as follows:

An expanded program of intercouncil coöperation within the present organizational structure.

The creation of a supplementary intercouncil service agency, to represent the councils in matters of common interest.

The creation of a single corporate agency to succeed all of the existing councils and to continue and extend all of their interests and functions.

The creation of a corporate agency to succeed those agencies primarily serving the churches in the United States."

The officers of the Conference were Dean Luther A.

Weigle, Chairman, Hermann N. Morse, Executive Secretary, and Gilbert Q. LeSourd, Recording Secretary.

The Conference began its sessions on Tuesday, December 9, at a moment when the nation, through the declaration of war, had been welded into a visible unity by a great national emergency. "The delegates proceeded with their work in full realization of the gravity and urgency of the problems confronting the Christian Church in its world-wide mission. The Conference was remarkable for the frankness with which it faced the problems before it and for the complete unity of spirit and purpose manifested in all the discussions."

The recommendations are now being transmitted to the eight Councils. If they approve the recommendations, the special committee which they will create has been requested to prepare and submit, not later than December 1, 1942, its report, carrying forward the recommendations. Thus the Church girds itself interdenominationally to provide a united Christian witness and a united Christian ministry in order that its Gospel may be brought more effectively to bear upon the needs of the world at this hour.

National Conference on Bases of Peace

"**N**OW—more than ever" expresses the attitude of the Federal Council's Commission to Study the Bases of a Just and Durable Peace toward its forthcoming National Study Conference, to be held at Ohio Wesleyan University, Delaware, Ohio, March 3-5, 1942. The need is even greater, now that the nation is officially at war, for the churches to consider their responsibility with respect to the post-war world. A number of inquiries have been made as to whether the Commission plans to go ahead with the Study Conference. The answer is "now—more than ever."

Denominational bodies, allied Christian organizations and councils of churches are being asked to appoint a specified number of delegates. It is expected that the total membership of the Conference will approximate 250. It will be made clear that delegates speak only for themselves, and not in any official sense for their respective churches or organizations.

This will be primarily a *study* conference, and will be divided into four sections. As now planned, these sections will be concerned with the following questions:

1. The Political Aspects of a Just and Durable Peace
2. The Economic Aspects of a Just and Durable Peace
3. The Social Aspects of a Just and Durable Peace (including racial and cultural problems)
4. The Relation of the Church to a Just and Durable Peace.

Preparatory work for each of these sections is now being undertaken by the sponsoring Commission.

In addition to sectional meetings and plenary sessions the Merrick-McDowell Lectures annually heard at Ohio Wesleyan will be made an integral part of the Conference program.

Correspondence regarding the Conference should be addressed to Bradford S. Abernethy, Federal Council of Churches, 297 Fourth Avenue, New York.

Dr. Douglass' Work

Dr. H. Paul Douglass assumes, on January 1, the new role of Executive Vice-chairman of the Federal Council's Commission for the Study of Christian Unity. Under the Council's retirement plan, he completed his work as secretary of the Commission on December 31st, but his exceptional knowledge both of American Christianity as a whole and of the ecumenical movement has led the Council to continue his service during 1942 in a new kind of relationship. Dr. Douglass will also devote part of his time to surveys and studies for the Home Missions Council. He is now beginning a special study of the missionary work in the Inter-Mountain Area and is soon to undertake a survey of the emergency responsibilities of the churches in the Pacific Northwest, especially in the Seattle area. At the same time, Dr. Douglass continues to be Editor of *Christendom*, the quarterly ecumenical review.

Christian Commission for Camp and Defense Communities

THE Christian Commission for Camp Communities was constituted by the Federal Council of Churches, the Home Missions Council and the General Commission on Army and Navy Chaplains. It helps the Protestant churches to bring an effective, co-ordinated ministry to men in uniform in camp communities, to the new civilian populations drawn into these communities and to similar groups, especially those affected by emergency conditions, drawn into industrial communities by the defense effort.

In such ministry the Commission seeks to co-ordinate the denominational efforts nationally and locally; to counsel local interdenominational groups (councils of churches, ministers' associations, Christian Associations, etc.) on a well-rounded ministry by the churches in co-operation with local agencies, the U.S.O. and the chaplains; to stimulate the interest of all Protestant churches throughout the country in the spiritual, moral and social welfare of those affected by the defense program in camp and industrial communities; to represent the churches, in matters where there is common agreement, in their relationship to the civilian governmental agencies, (contacts with the Army and Navy will usually be maintained through the Commission on Army and Navy Chaplains) and in their co-operation with the U.S.O.; and to advise the churches locally and nationally concerning legislation and law-enforcement in matters of public morals.

These functions will be carried forward through comity

agreements between denominations, through the work of the National Director and various denominational executives charged with the responsibility for ministry within these fields, acting as members of a co-operating staff; and through publications and conferences with reference to the programs by which these objectives can be achieved.

The Commission has just issued a 24-page pamphlet entitled "The Church at Work in Camp Communities." It contains advice and information to churches near camps on such topics as the following: Co-operation with Chaplains, Co-operation with the U.S.O., Home Hospitality, Counselling, Officers' Families, Counsel in Cases of Proposed Marriage, Trailer Chapels, How Churches Organize for the Task, and Principles of Successful Programs. It is not theoretical; it is based upon successful projects already in operation. Order from the Christian Commission for Camp and Defense Communities, 297 Fourth Avenue, New York; prices—single copy 10 cents; 10 or more copies 5 cents; \$2.50 per hundred.

The Commission welcomes inquiries from ministerial associations, councils of churches and local pastors.

A series of regional conferences is being planned to assist the churches to set up more effective programs and to achieve a better co-ordination of their efforts with those of the chaplains and the U.S.O.

The Commission is prepared to assist the churches in a given area to survey their task. Several studies have already been made.

Proposed Nation-Wide Convocation

THE proposal for a Convocation of American Christianity was initiated by the International Council of Religious Education in February, 1940.

The action reads:

"That the International Council make overtures to other national interdenominational agencies, to the end of holding a national interdenominational convention in the year 1944 or the year 1945, the purpose of this convocation being to set forth the total message and total functions of the Protestant churches of America."

This overture was cordially received by the Federal Council, the Home Missions Council, the Foreign Missions Conference, the National Council of Church Women and other national interdenominational bodies.

Subsequently, during studies made by the Inter-Council Field Department and the Inter-Council Staff

Conference, it was decided to propose a change from a joint convention of national interdenominational agencies to a nation-wide Convocation of American Protestant Christianity. This change contemplated the official participation of the several national church conventions and assemblies in the Convocation.

Letters of inquiry regarding the convocation were sent to denominational agencies by Dr. Roy G. Ross, as Chairman of the Inter-Council Staff Conference. Universal interest was registered in the replies to this inquiry.

A sub-committee of three was appointed by the Inter-Council Staff Conference to follow up this proposal with the denominations and seek to ascertain how many would favor appointing a Joint Committee to draft a plan for the Convocation (Emory Ross, Chairman, J. Quinter Miller, John B. Ketcham). This Committee has received notice of the official action of the Evangelical

and Reformed Church to schedule its 1944 convention so as to participate in the Convocation.

This Convocation would consist of four days of simultaneous and joint sessions of the official judicatories (conventions, assemblies, councils or annual meetings) of the participating churches. The schedule for these four days would include parallel denominational business sessions, interdenominational functional conferences, and united sessions for general addresses, inspiration and corporate worship.

The purpose of the Convocation would be to witness to the essential spiritual unity of the Church's faith in Christ Jesus, and to set forth the corporate message and ministry of the Protestant Churches of America in the new world order.

The time and place of the Convocation, as well as the nature and scope of the program, would be determined by a joint commission created by the denominations and national interdenominational agencies cooperating in the Convocation. Preliminary studies indicate Chicago as the most adequately equipped center and May, 1944, as the most suitable time.

Matters of program, budget, staff and administrative procedures would be assigned to a Joint Convocation Commission composed of three persons from each participating denomination and five persons from each cooperating national interdenominational agency. The budget would be underwritten by the participating denominations upon a basis to be determined by the Joint Commission.

All preliminary studies concerning the program for the Convocation would be turned over to the Joint Convocation Commission when it meets. It is hoped that the American Section of The World Council of Churches, as represented by the Joint Executive Committee of Faith and Order and Life and Work will be included among the participating interdenominational agencies.

Each denomination, through its appropriate channel, is requested:

1. to study the proposal for a nation-wide convocation of American Christianity in 1944;
2. to decide whether at this time it would favor participation in the convocation by arranging its official meeting in 1944 with this in mind;
3. to elect three members on the Convocation Commission;

4. to offer suggestions concerning the proposed convocation.

This type of convocation has never been attempted on a national scale. Four such meetings have been held in three states. The Inter-Council Field Department is recommending that similar state meetings be conducted in many states during 1943, preparatory to this national convocation in 1944.

American Christianity needs such a united witness. This convocation experience could powerfully influence the Church's life and work in the post-war world. It would enable American Protestant Christianity to demonstrate the essential unity which it possesses in Jesus Christ, for in Him all churches find the one true light for men.

John B. Ketcham

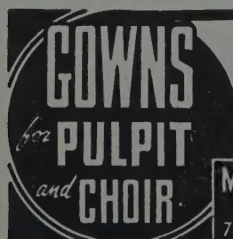
J. Quinter Miller

Emory Ross, Chairman

European Visit Deferred

In response to an urgent invitation from the headquarters staff of the World Council of Churches at Geneva, Switzerland, Dr. Samuel McCrea Cavert, General Secretary of the Federal Council of Churches, planned to make a visit to the continent of Europe, including France and Germany, early in December. The Joint Executive Committee of the American Sections of Faith and Order and Life and Work officially appointed him as its representative for this purpose. The objectives of the visit were to assist in the program of the World Council of Churches, including the spiritual ministry to prisoners of war and aid to refugees, and the strengthening of the contacts between American Christianity and European Christianity in this time of strain.

On November 21 Dr. Cavert made application for passport, visas and transportation by the Atlantic Clipper. The arrangements were speedily completed and priority on the Clipper was assigned to him by the Department of State for December 9, but the departure of the plane was delayed until December 12. On December 8 came the declaration of war against the United States by Japan, followed on December 11 by a similar declaration of war by Germany and Italy. In view of these developments, the visit to the Continent had to be postponed.



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United Council of Church Women

AFTER working and planning together through the National Committee of Church Women, the women of the Foreign Missions Conference of North America, the Home Missions Council of North America, and the National Council of Church Women have consummated the plans for one united organization of Protestant church women. Approximately one hundred officially appointed delegates from the three groups and the members of the National Committee of Church Women met in Atlantic City, December 11-13, as the Constituting Convention and formed the United Council of Church Women.

The officers elected are, First Vice-President, Miss Amy Welcher, (Congregational-Christian) of Hartford, Conn.; Second Vice-President, Mrs. Robert McLean, (Presbyterian U.S.A.) of Santa Barbara, Calif.; Third Vice-President, Mrs. Christine Smith, (African Methodist Episcopal) of Detroit, Mich. Vice Presidents-at-large: Mrs. I. J. Ayres, (Methodist) of El Paso, Texas; Mrs. Andrew Dale, (Presbyterian U. S.) of Columbia, Tenn.; Mrs. E. H. Gebert, of Longview, Wash.; Mrs. E. L. Eggers, (Northern Baptist) of Hammond, Ind.; Miss

Mary C. Smith, (Episcopal) of Minneapolis, Minn.; Mrs. Virgil Sease, (United Lutheran) of New Brunswick, N. J. Mrs. Fred H. White, (Disciples) of Buffalo, N. Y., was elected Recording Secretary and Miss Henrietta Gibson, (Methodist) of Albany, N. Y., Treasurer.

According to the constitution, the work of the United Council is to be carried through three major departments: first—Department on Program, which will include present activities such as the World Day of Prayer and new interests; second—Department of Field Organization, which will be responsible for counselling local and state interdenominational groups of church women and organizing new ones; third—Department of Promotion and Publicity, which will be responsible for promoting the total program represented in the three organizations that have consummated the merger and for publicity, including press, radio and publication.

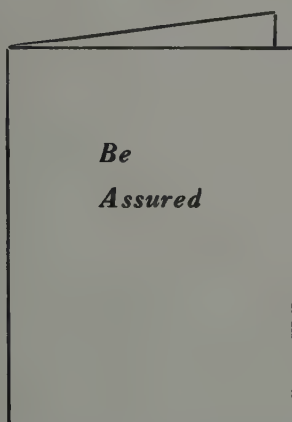
To quote from the constitution,

"The purpose shall be to unite church women in their allegiance to our Lord Jesus Christ through a program looking to their unification in the total life and work of the Church and the building of a world Christian community."

This United Council will bring a united approach of the various church agencies to the thousands of interdenominational groups of church women in the United States, some of which are extensively organized councils in the metropolitan areas; some groups uniting the Christian women of towns and villages across the country. Among the many activities of these groups, the one common to all is the World Day of Prayer, in which between six and seven thousand communities in the United States participate.

The office of the new Council is to be located at 156 Fifth Avenue, New York.

Be Assured



THE funeral is over. The pastor is wondering about his own ministry. Did he give the assurance which would bring hope and faith to his people who mourn?

This little booklet has been planned to help the minister at this point. It is filled with Bible quotations, poetic gems and bits of Christian philosophy which will help one to know Him who "healeth the broken hearted and bindeth up their wounds."

It is a simple, inexpensive gift which adds the friendly gesture to your service to those who mourn.

Per copy (with mailing envelope) 20c.

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The Beacon Press, 25 Beacon St., Boston, Mass.

The Church and Credit Unions

The 68 credit unions within local Protestant churches are the subject of a special study appearing in *Information Service* for December 13, 1941. The monograph was prepared by Benson Y. Landis of the Research Department's staff, at the request of the Federal Council's Committee on The Church and Coöperatives, which will handle the distribution of extra copies of the issue. Single copies are 10 cents each, postpaid; rates will be quoted on quantities.

PAX VOBISCUM

Friend, you have come to this Church, leave it
not without a prayer. No man entering
a house ignores him who dwells in it.
This is the House of God and He is here.
PRAY then to Him Who loves you & bids
you welcome and awaits your greeting.
GIVE THANKS for those who in past ages
built this place to His glory & for those
who, dying that we might live, have preserved
for us our heritage.
PRAISE GOD for His gifts of beauty in
painting & architecture, handicraft & music.
ASK that we who now live may build the
spiritual fabric of the nation in TRUTH,
BEAUTY & GOODNESS & that as we draw
near to the ONE FATHER through our LORD
& SAVIOUR JESUS CHRIST we may draw
nearer to one another in perfect brotherhood.
The Lord preserve thy going out and thy coming in.

This greeting, appropriate for the porch or entrance to a Church, is printed in red and black. The original appears in Canterbury Cathedral, England. It has been made available in the United States. Size 9½ by 15½ inches. Price \$1.00 each postpaid.

Order from

The Church Society for College Work
Mount Saint Alban, Washington, D. C.

Vice in Camp Communities

In the course of correspondence with the War Department concerning vice in camp communities, the office of the Federal Council has received a copy of a circular sent by the War Department to all commanding officers.

For the information of local church groups and pastors we print several excerpts from the circular, which is dated December 5, 1941:

"The objective of the War Department is the suppression of prostitution and the elimination of segregated areas of possible infection surrounding our military establishments. Where local authorities fail to coöperate in removing unsatisfactory conditions commanders are enjoined to declare affected areas 'off limits' to members of their commands, and to follow the procedure prescribed in Circular 170, August 16, 1941 with a view to invoking the powers granted by the May Act. No deviation from this policy is authorized."

"The prevention and control of venereal disease is the responsibility of the unit commander and for the personal performance of that duty he will be held strictly accountable. Unless extenuating circumstances exist, a high incidence of venereal disease in a command shall be regarded as indicative of a lack of efficiency on the part of the commander concerned. Commanders of units having a low incidence shall receive full credit for their accomplishment."

An Eternal Partnership

The American Baptist Home Mission Society has but one basic objective. Briefly stated it is:

To mediate Jesus Christ to men and women, and boys and girls, and to bring them into vital touch with God through Christ.

This great objective of the Society may be furthered and sustained by you after all your own participation in life has passed away. You are offered **AN ETERNAL PARTNERSHIP** that is made possible by the Society's Gift Agreement Plan.

Under this Plan your gift will not only be a source of income for you during life, but will help to carry on Christian missions in the United States and in Latin America after your need of an income on earth has ceased.

For Information Concerning Rates of Income
write to

G. Pitt Beers, Executive Secretary

The American Baptist Home Mission
Society

212 Fifth Avenue New York, N. Y.

Ecumenical Seminar for Women

The Women's Coöperating Commission of the Federal Council is sponsoring an Ecumenical Seminar to be held in the Directors' Room of Union Theological Seminary on February 25-27 and March 2, 4, and 5.

The study course, which will be conducted by Professor Adolf Keller of the Universities of Geneva and Zurich, and Consultant on the World Council of Churches, is as follows:

I. The Seven World Conferences of the Churches as Stages of an Ecumenical Process.

II. Character and Spiritual Import of These Conferences.

III. Comparison of Some Main Problems and Their Evolution in the Conferences; *e.g.*, Church and State in the Present European Revolutions.

IV. Comparative Study of the Ecumenical Messages and the Recent Papal Encyclicals.

V. The Spiritual Contributions of Churches and Continents to the Ecumenical Movement of the Future. The World Council of Churches: Its Present Task.

The registration fee will be \$5.00 for the series. Reservations may be made with Miss Anna E. Caldwell, secretary of the Women's Coöperating Commission, 297 Fourth Avenue, New York.

Bibles for War Prisoners

A cablegram from Geneva, November 26, from the Ecumenical Commission for Chaplaincy Aid to War Prisoners stated that permission had been secured to distribute Scriptures to Russian prisoners—presumably in Germany, as well as Finland. It requested permission to place a "first order" for 30,000 New Testaments with the Finnish Bible Society in Helsingfors. The American Bible Society also has on the press in New York 10,000 Russian Testaments and Psalms.

The service to other prisoners of war continues steadily. In September the Geneva office sent 133 parcels to 78 prisoners or refugees acting as chaplains or representatives of groups. The packages contained 419 Bibles in French, English, and German, 676 New Testaments and 4,355 Polish Gospels. British prisoners captured in Greece have been transferred to Germany and are now being supplied. Scriptures have also been supplied recently to Italian prisoners in Egypt, Uganda, and Cape Town.

The Woodrow Wilson Library

The Woodrow Wilson Foundation, 8 W. 40th Street, New York, invites all interested in international relations publications, including those of the League of Nations, to use the reference library. The library has a notable collection of documents and of special reference materials ordinarily not found in public or university libraries.

1942 Fellowship of Prayer

For the twenty-fourth consecutive year the "Fellowship of Prayer" booklet has been prepared for use during the Lenten season. This year Lent begins on February 18.

The author of the 1942 "Fellowship of Prayer" is Dr. Gaius Glenn Atkins, formerly of Auburn Theological Seminary. He prepared the meditations and prayers during the late summer and early autumn of this year with a haunting sense that they might be needed and used in a difficult national situation. They may be used in connection with the observance of America's Prayer Minute. Pastors may want to order copies for each member of every home.

The "Fellowship of Prayer" booklet sells for \$2.00 per 100 and may be ordered from the Department of Evangelism, 297 Fourth Avenue, New York.

Red Cross War Fund

Calling for the united support of the entire nation, the American Red Cross has appealed for a special war fund of \$50,000,000 to carry on and expand its work among Army and Navy personnel. The appeal was broadcast to the nation by Chairman Norman H. Davis.

In preparation for just such an emergency as the country now faces the Red Cross has been spending funds at the rate of more than \$1,000,000 a month. The various services which the Red Cross provides to the nation and its Army and Navy have been effectively strengthened. Under the new conditions activities all along the line, on the war front and on the home front, must be rapidly expanded. By tradition, custom and Congressional Charter the Red Cross is the organization that maintains those human and family links between our fighting men and the people at home, links which mean so much to both military and civilian morale.

In announcing the war fund campaign, Red Cross officials pointed out that contributions would be used only in connection with the organization's war work. Membership dues collected during the November nation-wide Roll Call are needed to finance the normal, day-to-day services of the Red Cross in thousands of communities throughout the country.

Council Employees in Health Co-Op.

New York City newspapers recently published an announcement by Group Health Coöperative, 1790 Broadway, New York, stating that the first organization unit of members had been formed among a number of the employees of the Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America. Group Health Coöperative, licensed by the State Insurance Department, starts under a plan approved by the Committee on Medical Economics of the New York County Medical Society, and with the co-operation of a large number of physicians of standing.

New Greek Orthodox Bishop

The Oecumenical Patriarchate in Istanbul, which is the head of the Hellenic Orthodox faith, elected as Assistant Bishop for the Greek Archdiocese of the United States the Reverend Germanos Polyzoides, D.D., hitherto Editor-in-Chief of the *Orthodox Observer*. The new Bishop has attended many Episcopal-Orthodox meetings and is the author of many books in both English and Greek.

"The Pursuit of Democracy"

A packet of materials has been assembled under the above title for use in the study of Negro Americans in national defense. It includes copies of government documents, statements of facts, a 40-page pamphlet defining problems, and a discussion. It was compiled by the Department of Race Relations of the Federal Council and is available from the Department, at 297 Fourth Avenue, New York, for 25 cents.

Foreign Relief Needs Greater

Civilian victims of war can still be helped. American entry into the war still leaves open a great many avenues of service for the established church relief agencies. In a number of cases the emergency has intensified the need. In other cases the actual declaration of war had been anticipated sufficiently to place funds in the hands of Christian relief representatives abroad. In this way any possible temporary disruption in their work has been offset. The eight church relief agencies affiliated with the Committee on Foreign Relief Appeals in the Churches

are all able to carry on their programs. The program of most of these agencies is now hindered chiefly by lack of funds. Urgent appeals are continually coming from centers of suffering abroad.

Treatment of Japanese in America

The presidents of three national Protestant bodies in this country—Dr. G. Pitt Beers of the Home Missions Council of North America, Miss Sue Weddell of the Foreign Missions Conference of North America and Dr. Luther A. Weigle of the Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America—issued the following message to the American churches on December 8, 1941:

"Under the emotional strain of the moment, Americans will be tempted to express their resentment against the action of Japan's government by recriminations against the Japanese people who are in our midst. We are gratified to observe that the agents of our government are dealing with them with consideration.

"Let us remember that many of these people are loyal patriotic American citizens and that others, though Japanese subjects, have been utterly opposed to their nation's acts against our nation. It is incumbent upon us to demonstrate a discipline which, while carefully observing the precautions necessary to national safety, has no place for vindictiveness.

"We therefore call upon the church people of this country to maintain a Christian composure and charity in their dealings with the Japanese among us."

• News of State and Local Cooperation •

Toledo Council of Churches Calls New Executive

Dr. Arthur Robert Siebens, formerly minister of the First Presbyterian Church of Bowling Green, Ohio, began his work as the new executive secretary of the Toledo (Ohio) Council of Churches on December 10. Dr. Siebens is described by one of his friends as a man who "brings a magnificent coöperative spirit, a knowledge of how to get things done and solid general ability to the task." Dr. Siebens succeeds Rev. Harlan M. Frost who now serves as the executive secretary of the Christian Commission for Camp and Defense Communities.

Brooklyn Honors J. Henry Carpenter

J. Henry Carpenter was paid a signal honor by his colleagues upon the recent

completion of fifteen years of continuous service in Brooklyn as executive secretary of the Brooklyn Federation of Churches and its successor, the Brooklyn Church and Mission Federation. "During those years he has exercised a type of leadership that has enriched and strengthened the religious life of Brooklyn during a period of unusual difficulties when the city has been losing much of its ablest leadership through population shifts and when vexing economic problems have made it an arduous task for any minister to lift his eyes from parish problems to the wider needs of the Borough . . . He has aligned his forceful personality and influential position in the community with those forces which seek to bring about an ever more practical application of the principles of Christianity to the problems arising from the juxtaposition of groups of different races and creeds in the community." The Flatbush Council of

Religious Goodwill presented a plaque as an expression of gratitude for his public-spirited efforts to build a happier, more civilized community through the medium of greater understanding and less sacrifice among all races and creeds.

Congratulations to E. A. E. Palmquist

Twenty-one years of continuous service is the record of Rev. E. A. E. Palmquist of Philadelphia. All who have served city and state councils or federations know the joys and perplexities attendant upon such coöperative Christian pioneering. The number of coöperating churches in the Philadelphia Federation is increasing and 593 are reported as making financial contributions.

"A.C.S." Delegates at Atlantic City

The Conference on the Study of Closer Relationships between National Interdenominational Agencies, referred to in another article in this BULLETIN, was greatly benefitted by the presence of the delegation from the "A.C.S.," the Association of Council Secretaries. Particularly helpful were the concrete illustrations which these delegates contributed in the discussions on the floor of the Conference concerning the practical necessity of the closer coordination of national interdenominational work in order to strengthen the work of state and city councils of churches. Hugh Burr of Rochester made an eloquent plea for a recognition of the necessity for the unification of interdenominational service nationally in order to meet more adequately the needs emerging in the local community. Members of the "A.C.S." included John W. Harms, Ross W. Sanderson, O. M. Walton, Frank Shults, Frank Jennings and Henry Reed Bowen. Hugh C. Burr represented the Federal Council delegation in the Study Conference.

Continuous Prayer for Peace

The Ministerial Union and the Washington Federation of Churches recently conducted a one-week continuous prayer for peace.

The Laymen's Retreat

The Indianapolis Church Federation on December 6 called Christian laymen together at Butler University to meditate upon the significance of a Christian philosophy in the realms of education, business and government. The function, objectives and procedures which should engage the Christian Church were outlined by Christian laymen. The invitation to the retreat stated: "Finding ourselves on the border of world conflict with half the world in confusion and chaos, and at a period when this conflict is testing the philosophies of nations, we are reminded that our democracy can be perpetuated only so long as we perpetuate the faith of our founding Fathers."

Cleveland Doubles Budget Goal

Cleveland Federation leaders have announced the budget goal for 1942 as \$30,000. Realization of this goal will make possible some badly needed replacements in office furnishings, the undergirding of

Protestant service for Cleveland Chinese, the beginning of chaplaincy service in numerous institutions and the reorganization of headquarters facilities for cooperative Christianity in Cleveland. Under the able guidance of O. M. Walton, this Federation has sustained steady growth. This budget goal should be realized.

Trusted Leader is Called Home

Walter Raycroft Mee, executive secretary of the Chicago Church Federation, died on October 2, 1941. In the words of Dr. Cavert, "Walter Raycroft Mee's successful experience in building up the greatest of church federations in American cities and his wisdom in dealing with interdenominational problems made him a trusted counselor to many men in different parts of the country. A close bond of fellowship and cooperation had developed between the Chicago Church Federation and the Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America. We shall miss him deeply, but we rejoice that his work will go on through the Chicago Church Federation, to which he had given the best years of his life."

Maine Council of Churches

For 72 years, the annual Convention of Maine Churches has brought outstanding leaders to the state, successively under the auspices of the Maine State Sunday School Association, the Maine Council of Religious Education, and since 1939 under the Maine Council of Churches. The 1941 Convention in Waterville October 21-22, true to its tradition of high quality, presented Dr. J. Quinter Miller and Dr. Henry Smith Leiper of the Federal Council; Rev. Herman J. Sweet, International Council of Religious Education; Dr. Mark Rich, American Baptist Home Mission Society; Miss Mildred C. Widber, Congregational Board; Miss Margaret Winchester, General Sunday School Association of the Universalist Church, and Rev. Max H. Webster, Vermont Congregational Christian Conference.

Addresses, seminars, daily quiet hours, fellowship suppers, and a presentation of Maine's religious needs in a drama written for the occasion by Dorothy Clarke Wilson were included in the two-day program which culminated on the evening of October 22 with the service of Holy Communion.

The United Christian Advance in Rural America for Maine began as a part of the Convention, with seminars for rural workers twice daily under the leadership of Dr. Rich. The rural character of Maine is evident in the registration at the Convention. Of the 239 enrolled, 68 were from communities less than 2500 in population, and 73 others from communities between 2501 and 10,000 in population.

Following the Convention, four rural conferences were held October 24-27, with

Dr. Miller, Dr. Rich, Mr. Sweet, Miss Widber, and Miss Winchester as the team. A schedule patterned upon the program suggested by the Home Missions Council was carried out. At each conference there were two major addresses, the keynote by Dr. Rich on "The Place of the Rural Church in a Democracy," and one by Dr. Miller on "A United Church for a Divided World." Seminars were held twice daily, on children's work, leadership education, interchurch cooperation and rural problems in church administration.

It was evident that those attending were eager for both inspiration and practical help. Emerging from the discussion was the conviction that the crying needs of Maine's rural areas are: (1) religious education for the unchurched, (2) wholesome recreation for youth, (3) discovering and training of leadership, (4) local organizations to provide interchurch fellowship and a medium for tackling common problems cooperatively.

Analysis of the registration, which totalled 277 for the four days, indicated that 199 persons represented communities under 2500 in population, and 78 communities between 2501 and 10,000. In the total enrollment of 516 for the Convention and rural conferences, eight denominations were represented besides numerous larger parishes, community federated and union churches. Others who attended suppers and evening meetings but did not register brought to about 1200 the total reached during the six-day program.

A definite "lift" was undoubtedly given to Maine church workers, particularly those in lonely and isolated communities, by the exceptional team which the cooperation of national denominational and interdenominational agencies made possible for these meetings in Ellsworth, Machias, Guilford and Camden.

The Churches of Maine on Trial

Under the title, "The Churches of Maine on Trial," Dorothy Clarke Wilson has presented in dramatic form the cause of Christian unity and interchurch cooperation in the State of Maine. This pageant was first presented at the Maine State Convention in Waterville. It portrays the Christian conscience as the bar of justice before which the churches are placed on trial. It charges the churches with neglect, competition, rivalry and failure to teach religion to their children, to care for the rural peoples on the back country roads, and to have an adequate strategy for the city, and with failure to apply the values of the Larger Parish, etc. We have just received Dorothy Clarke Wilson's permission to make this generally available to other state and local councils shortly after the new year. It is believed that with adaptation it will furnish a useful illustration for the strengthening of cooperative unity in American Protestant Christianity.

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• Among the New Books •

A Creed for Free Men

By WILLIAM ADAMS BROWN

Scribner's. \$2.50

The need of the world for a unifying faith and a "working philosophy" at this critical hour is the theme of these seasoned reflections by an outstanding leader in ecumenical Christianity. If there is to be a practicable alternative to the totalitarian philosophy of force as the organizing principle of the world, mankind must find some central loyalty. Dr. Brown's book is an answer to the question as to how Christianity provides such a loyalty.

For the effective working of democracy, Dr. Brown points out, there must be a widespread conviction of a moral and spiritual purpose in our existence and in human history. The Christian faith in God asserts that this is a meaningful world and that that meaning is in fellowship. The relation of this faith to the scientific view of life and to political progress is penetratingly explored. The deepest theological questions—like the nature of God, the nature of man, the mystery of evil—are treated in a fresh setting.

Much attention is given to the fact of "loyalty" and to its significance for man's relation to both Church and State. It is recognized that loyalties divide men as well as unite them, and the issue of conflicting loyalties is frankly faced. The democratic philosophy of life, it is insisted, finds its greatest support in Christianity, which reconciles freedom and authority more completely than any other view of life, which provides the most inclusive loyalty that can be conceived, and which in the Church embodies a universal loyalty.

The Family Lives Its Religion

By REGINA WESTCOTT WIEMAN

Harpers. \$2.00

This book brings a new and challenging interpretation of what it means for a family to be religious. It also stimulates people to ask what family living means and how we are to know the way of God in

family life when we see it. Family living is a process of mutual helpfulness and creative interaction among the members. In this process personality is created and life takes on enhanced value because of its shared and creative nature. Religious living means seeking those values which bring us into harmony not only with one another but with the creative Source of all good. Religious living gives God the most important place in all situations.

Definite help is given to the family in discovering the way of God as revealed in Jesus and in securing the values which are found in the Christian way of life. Approach to reality in a worshipful spirit will include acceptance of persons and situations as they are, self-searching and commitment of ourselves and our plans to God, realization of God's presence. The ideal is to love into being and to worship into being the best potentialities of all persons.

The marriage triangle with which this book is concerned is composed of man, woman and God. Fulfillment in the husband-wife relationships is to be found by providing favorable conditions and working together to create a new pattern of life fully shared with each other and with God.

Parents are thought of as trustees of the family who are to care for each other as father and mother in order that they may also give the best care to their children. In the family each member must be reasonably free and at the same time each must be subject to discipline in the shared process of seeking the best. Even the errors of members are to be dealt with through creative love, showing that misbehavior is damaging to values and to development. Problems which arise are signals that further growth or adjustment is necessary.

This is a book which all leaders in the field of family life will want to study with care and which pastors and thoughtful parents also will find unusually rewarding.

L.F.W.

From Millions to Happiness

By ALBERT LUDLOW KRAMER

Leighton Press, 21 West 46th St.,
New York. \$1.00

This modest and unassuming record of a personal spiritual pilgrimage is an extra-

ordinary piece of autobiography. The author is a man who early in life achieved marked success—as the world counts "success"—in Wall Street. The millions accumulated, his safe deposit vault was full. At the age of thirty-eight he had all the money he wanted and piling up more millions began to be uninteresting. He went in heavily for sport and became a devotee of race horses. Then sport also palled. He was still dissatisfied with life. He proved to be a modern demonstration of St. Augustine's saying, "Thou hast made us for Thyself, O God, and our hearts are restless till they find rest in Thee."

After earnest search he found God as a Reality when at last he came to the point of surrendering his whole life to Him and deciding henceforth to seek God's will and guidance in everything. He now devotes his life to personal Christian work with individuals. From time to time he inserts in the New York newspapers an advertisement which reads: "I will try to help anyone sincerely searching for God to find Him. No charges. Address Box —." A constant stream of seekers come to him and are helped to find the Object of their quest.

The little book is a tonic to faith and an inspiring witness. S.M.C.

I Have Considered the Days

By CYRUS ADLER

Jewish Publication Society of America.
\$2.50

This is the personal record of a great soul—simple, kindly, humble, generous, broad-visioned. In his chosen field of ancient languages and philology Dr. Adler was one of the foremost scholars of his generation. As a leader in Jewish philanthropy his name stands at the top of the leaders of his own people. As a great hearted humanitarian who rejoiced to cooperate with all men of good will in service to mankind he has been the inspiring friend of many Christians.

S.M.C.

Who Is My Patient: A Religious Manual for Nurses

By RUSSELL L. DICKS

Macmillan. \$1.50

This little book not only fills a long-felt need, but should arouse awareness of the need in many places where it has remained dormant. An introductory section, emphasizing the patient as a person and child of God and not merely a case, tells what the religious needs of patients are likely to be and why these may be stronger in illness than at other times. There is analysis en-

LIGHT on the International Uniform Lessons

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abling the nurse to recognize major spiritual needs which might otherwise be overlooked.

The second section deals with the nurse and the clergyman: what the nurse should know about different faiths, how to prepare for the clergyman's visit, when to see that a clergyman is called, what the pastor can actually do for patients.

The concluding chapters consider what the nurse herself may do to minister to spiritual need—pointing out how indispensable such ministry is on the part of the only worker who sees very much of the patient. The methods of listening and reassurance are discussed, as are those of prayer and use of the Bible. An excellent brief selection of prayers is included, from the three major faiths, the author having been careful to get authorized material from Jewish and Roman Catholic sources. A good discussion of the eternal problem of suffering concludes the volume.

This book should be widely known among nurses, and should have a use beyond the ranks of this great profession. Pastors, social workers, and laymen should find it of real interest. It could well become a text for a brief course in every school of nursing. One misses certain things from its pages—for example, discussion of Christian vocation in the health professions—but is certain that these were omitted only after careful consideration of the purpose the volume is intended to serve. S.H.

of ultimate reality." Biblical religion is superior because it assumes that the divine mystery is there revealed, or "that man's imagination is at the same time the word of God." There is a difference between symbol and image, the former being related only to thought. One "images" God; hence the religious function of imagination. Real religious imagination is the property only of the prophet, who is therefore also a mystic. Faith may not be all subjective, but its base in the imagination is subjective. This is an interesting approach, concise, far-reaching—essentially a philosophic statement of the point at which philosophy yields to religion. S.H.

Autobiography

By ERIC GILL

Devin-Adair. \$3.50

Eric Gill was an artist-craftsman, who made his living by lettering on stone. He was also a sensitive spirit, who pursued the artist's search for beauty, and the religionist's search for the highest of truth. He once thought he had "invented" a new religion, but soon found it was very old, the form practiced by the Roman Catholic Church, to which he readily submitted himself. So humble he was, that joining a Catholic guild brought him "too much publicity," and for years he sought peace in a remote country district of Wales. He berated modern commercialism. He was also shocked by the indifference of many Catholic clergy to *Rerum Novarum* by Leo XIII in 1891, and *Quadragesimo Anno* by Pius XI in 1931. According to evidence brought by Mr. Gill, who died in 1940, the English Catholic priests paid as little attention to the social teachings of the Popes as it has been lately indicated to us the ministers in the United States have paid to the Social Ideals adopted by various sessions of the Federal Council. B.Y.L.

Youth's Courtship Problems

By ALFRED L. MURRAY

Zondervan Publishing House. \$1.35

This book contains much sensible counsel to teen-age youth on dating and courtship problems and on the development of character. It has occasional statements which seem ill-founded, as when the author says that engagement should not be more than a year in duration. There is much experience to the contrary and recent studies have shown that young people whose engagements were longer than this made better records in marriage. Similarly the author says "statistics fail to prove that there are any more unhappy marriages among those who married early in life than among those who married when older." What statistical evidence we do have is in the other direction and seems worthy of notice, although of course its extent is not sufficient to close the question absolutely. However, these are only details. The author writes in friendly style but with some literary un-

evenness. He finds that Christian character aids the growth of personality and is a secure foundation for friendship.

On Guard

By JOSEPH R. SIZOO

Macmillan. \$1.00

This book by the able minister of the Collegiate Church of St. Nicholas, New York City, consists of three hundred sixty-five messages, without scriptural citation and concentrated into one hundred word sections. Each is a positive presentation of Christian truth in language that is well calculated to speak home to this streamlined age. The messages are addressed to, but not accommodated to, a world at war. Councils of Churches which conduct radio devotional periods might well point to this book as an illustration of how vital truth can be condensed into a few sentences without loss of "drive." It is especially recommended as a gift to men in the armed forces. HARLAN M. FROST.

Worship in the Churches

By WILLIAM ROY McNUTT

Judson Press. \$2.00

Professor McNutt has given a clear and suggestive presentation of his subject, addressed chiefly to those communions which traditionally have not stressed formal worship. He is an apostle with a vigorous and understanding message addressed at many points to his own Baptist churches. He speaks with the authority of sixteen years in the pastorate and thirteen years as a professor at Crozer Seminary, training young men for the ministry.

The title of the book indicates its central thrust. Professor McNutt is concerned that the rank and file of ministers and churches shall appreciate the spiritual resources available to them through adequate worship. He wants them to worship aright, and stresses the elements essential to this high experience.

The book runs through a wide range of subjects, beginning with the opening chapter on "What Is Worship?" and continuing to the relationship of worship to social action, health, and world viewpoints. D.E.

Wisdom and Folly in Religion

By JOSEPH HAROUTUNIAN

Scribners. \$2.00

This volume reveals a mood which is as disquieting as the tragic world situation which induces it. Professor Haroutunian is sweepingly iconoclastic in his consideration of a contemporary Protestantism which is but "a pale image" of the Reformation, "a negligible factor in our social life and destiny" and which exists mainly "by virtue of its past."

Its theology is but a "caricature." Dr. Haroutunian appears to desire an "authoritarian" Church and our modern worship

The Religious Function of Imagination

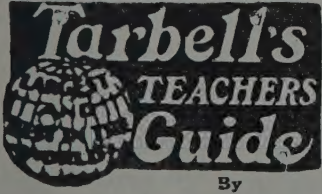
(Bedell Lectures at Kenyon College)

By RICHARD KRONER

Yale University Press. \$1.00

This brief volume of seventy pages contains two lectures delivered by the distinguished German philosopher and theologian, now at McGill University. They represent, he says, a kind of summary of what he gave in his Gifford lectures on "The Boundary Line Between Philosophy and Religion." The thesis is that it is not thought, even religious thought, which can make the deepest contact with reality, but religious imagination. Imagination "embraces the totality of our existence." Its religious function is neither theoretical nor practical, but is a special function concerned with the "self-contradictory essence

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is "the ultimate symptom of Protestant degeneracy."

The doctrine of "justification by faith" appears to the author to mean that we become partakers of Adam's "original sin." "Total depravity" and "justification by faith" are mutually essential because they "are expressions of the same conviction that man's one hope against perdition is God." "The doctrines of election and predestination" are essential to the Reformation mind, and "the crown of Protestant piety is the . . . 'double election' of some to salvation and others to damnation."

Dr. Haroutunian seems content with putting a total wicked humanity where he

thinks it deserves to be, leaving man under judgment. If God is really redemptive we discover little sign of it in this study, whose flashes of truth and light seem hopelessly lost in the almost total gloom of the book. C.S.M.

Can Religious Education Be Christian?

By HARRISON S. ELLIOTT
Macmillan. \$2.50

Contemporary theologians have condemned modern Christian education as a product of a repudiated "liberalism." The

response of educators, somewhat overdue, is made squarely by Dr. Elliott who, while he sees the creative influence of current theological contentions, believes that this will be hindered, "if the theologians are unwilling to enter fully into a creative educational process." Modern educational method not only teaches religion, but reaches into the realms of experience and faith. Religious teachers, however, do not begin with the beliefs of the churches, but with the young people to be educated.

There is no "single authoritative interpretation of the Christian faith in the New Testament." In the theological problem of "sin and guilt," there must be "a distinction between sickness and sin," with no exclusive emphasis on either man's "demonic" or "divine" tendencies. There is nothing in "the original nature of man" which accounts for his present social condition.

The modern educational method is an attempt to meet the conditions under which the educational process reaches the level of worship and the educational experience is a religious experience. The educational approach recognizes God's revelations, but "man has not been given any direct revelation of the meaning of these revelations." C.S.M.

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Eden Publishing House, St. Louis, Mo.

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